

Appln. No. 10/075,036
Amendment dated
Reply to Office action of May 4, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The specification has been amended at page 1, line 26, to insert the application number of the noted co-pending U.S. patent application, in accordance with the Examiner's comment.

Claims 1-29 have been canceled.

Newly added claim 30 defines a particular combination which is believed allowable. Claim 30 defines an exhaust emission control method and requires in combination that the defined NO_x storage element be selected from the group consisting of alkali and alkaline earth compounds, and that the compound be selected from the group consisting of oxide, carbonate and nitrate, and further that the NO_x storage element be selected from the group consisting of Ba, Li, Na, K and Ca, and further that the reaction include $\text{NO} + \text{CO} \rightarrow 1/2\text{N}_2 + \text{CO}_2$, including in the defined combination. Applicant has reviewed the cited references, including Khair et al. U.S. Patent 6,615,580, but has not found the defined combination nor the suggestion thereof. Consideration and allowance of claim 30 is respectfully requested.

Claim 31 depends from claim 30 and is believed allowable for the reasons noted above. Furthermore, claim 31 also requires generation of CO₂ from the noted CO according to $\text{O}_2 + \text{CO} \rightarrow \text{CO}_2$. This combination is believed allowable.

It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance with claims 30 and 31, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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